

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A television signal receiver connected to a plurality of recording apparatuses, which record program data received by said television signal receiver, said television signal receiver comprising:

an input unit adapted to input program data;

an identification unit adapted to identify a group to which the program data inputted by said input unit belongs;

a selection unit adapted to select a recording apparatus from among the plurality of recording apparatuses in accordance with the group identified by said identification unit; and

an output unit adapted to output the program data to the recording apparatus selected by said selection unit.

2. A television signal receiver according to Claim 1, wherein the plurality of recording apparatuses are externally connected to said television signal receiver.

3. A television signal receiver according to Claim 1, further comprising an allocation unit adapted to allocate a group item to each of the plurality of recording apparatuses, wherein said selection unit selects the recording apparatus in accordance with the group item allocated by said allocation unit and the group of the program data identified by said identification unit.

4. A television signal receiver according to Claim 3, wherein, when the

group identified by said identification unit coincides with none of the group items allocated to the plurality of recording apparatuses by said allocation unit, said selection unit manually selects the recording apparatus from among the plurality of recording apparatuses.

5. A television signal receiver according to Claim 3, further comprising a discrimination unit adapted to discriminate a recording medium mounted in each of the plurality of recording apparatuses, wherein said allocation unit allocates a group item to each recording medium mounted in the plurality of recording apparatuses, and wherein said selection unit selects a recording apparatus mounting the recording medium discriminated by said discrimination unit, in accordance with the group item allocated to the recording medium and the group of the program data identified by said identification unit.

6. A television signal receiver according to Claim 1, wherein the group is a genre to which the program data belongs, and wherein said identification unit identifies the genre of the program based on EPG (electronic program guide) data in the program data inputted by said input unit.

7. A recording control method of controlling a plurality of recording apparatuses, which record program data received by a television signal receiver, said method comprising:

an input step of inputting program data;

an identification step of identifying a group to which the inputted program data belongs;

a selection step of selecting a recording apparatus from among the plurality of recording apparatuses in accordance with the identified group; and

an output step of outputting the program data to the selected recording apparatus.

8. A recording control method according to Claim 7, wherein the plurality of recording apparatuses are externally connected to the television signal receiver.

9. A recording control method according to Claim 7, further comprising an allocation step of allocating a group item to each of the plurality of recording apparatuses, wherein, in said selection step, the recording apparatus is selected in accordance with the group item allocated in said allocation step and the group of the program data identified in said identification step.

10. A recording control method according to Claim 9, wherein, when the group identified in said identification step coincides with none of the group items allocated to the plurality of recording apparatuses in said allocation step, the recording apparatus is manually selected from among the plurality of recording apparatuses.

11. A recording control method according to Claim 9, further comprising a discrimination step of discriminating a recording medium mounted in each of the plurality of recording apparatuses, wherein, in said

allocation step, a group item is allocated to each recording medium mounted in the plurality of recording apparatuses, and wherein, in said selection step, a recording apparatus mounting the recording medium discriminated in said discrimination step is selected, in accordance with the group item allocated to the recording medium and the group of the program data identified in said identification step.

12. A recording control method according to Claim 7, wherein the group is a genre to which the program data belongs, and wherein, in said identification step, the genre of the program is identified based on EPG data in the program data inputted in said input step.

13. A television signal receiver connected to a plurality of recording apparatuses, which record program data received by said television signal receiver, said television signal receiver comprising:

a setting unit adapted to set user information for each of the plurality of recording apparatuses; and

a control unit adapted to control each of the plurality of recording apparatuses so as to allow a user corresponding to the user information set by said setting unit to instruct processing relating to a corresponding recording apparatus.

14. A television signal receiver according to Claim 13, wherein the plurality of recording apparatuses are externally connected to said control means.

15. A television signal receiver according to Claim 13, further comprising:

an instruction unit adapted to instruct processing for each of the plurality of recording apparatuses; and

a determination unit adapted to determine whether or not the processing instructed by said instruction unit is from a user corresponding to the user information set by said setting unit,

wherein said control unit controls the corresponding recording apparatus to perform the instructed processing when said determination unit has determined that the processing is instructed from the user corresponding to the set user information.

16. A television signal receiver according to Claim 15, wherein said setting unit sets a user name and a user ID to each of the plurality of recording apparatuses, wherein said determination unit comprises an input unit adapted to input a user ID corresponding to the user name, and wherein said control unit controls the corresponding recording apparatus to perform the instructed processing when the user ID corresponding to the set user name coincides with the user ID input by said input unit.

17. A television signal receiver according to Claim 15, wherein said setting unit sets a user voice for identifying a user name and a user, wherein said determination unit comprises an input unit adapted to input a user voice corresponding to the user name, and wherein said control unit controls the corresponding recording apparatus to perform the instructed processing when the user voice corresponding to the set user name coincides with the

user voice input by said input unit.

18. A recording control method of controlling a plurality of recording apparatuses, which record program data received by a television signal receiver, said method comprising:

a setting step of setting user information for each of the plurality of recording apparatuses; and

a control step of controlling each of the plurality of recording apparatuses to allow a user corresponding to the user information set in said setting step to instruct processing relating to a corresponding recording apparatus.

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